



Idaho School Safety and Security Group Meeting Summary

Monday, March 4, 2013 8:30am-4:30pm

Present:

Brian Armes, Bonneville S.D.	Guy Bliesner, Bonneville S.D.	Anita Christenson, Nampa SD
Justin Dusseau, Ada County Sheriff	Susan Fletcher, ISBA / American Falls S.D.	Samuel Hulse, Bonneville County Sheriff's Office
Vicki Johnson, Blackfoot S.D.	Steve Keys, Division of Building Safety	Vaughn Killeen, Idaho Sheriff's Association
Lisa Kramer, SDE	Matt McCarter, SDE	Mike Munger, Boise S.D.
Steve Myer, Boise Police	Heidi Novich Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security	Steve Steiner, Bureau of Homeland Security
Todd Zucker, Weiser S.D.	Kim Kane, Suicide Prevention Advocate	Doreen Hayes, SDE Administrative Assistant

Stakeholder group mission:

1. Identify the critical infrastructure, resources and action steps (statewide plan) to create a culture of readiness to prevent and respond to crises in every school community in Idaho.
2. Build capacity for local jurisdictions to effectively prevent and respond to their unique crises situations.
3. Every student, parent and staff member feels safe in Idaho schools.

Determination Statements:

(Concerns)

1. There is a wide variance in the level of attention and preparation for school safety and security issues in the school districts and charter schools across the state.
2. Valid and reliable information on the current status of school safety and security in schools across the state does not exist.
3. Ownership and responsibility for school safety and security at the state and local district level has been nebulous and not well defined.
4. The availability of Idaho specific school safety data, best practices information, training and assistance is limited.

5. The majority of districts in the state lack the resources (expertise, personnel and funding) to establish meaningful and sustainable school safety and security improvement.

(Strategy)

1. School security is a subset of the much wider subject of school safety and requires a comprehensive approach.
2. School districts must work more closely with their first responder community in the planning process to maximize the effectiveness of any response.
3. Solutions must balance empowering local decision-making and establishing a baseline of statewide uniformity.
4. School safety includes violence prevention, school climate and drug & alcohol issues.
5. A common, valid and reliable threat assessment / school safety audit tool, with an accompanying rubric, is the starting place to address school safety and security statewide.
6. Local safety plans should be crafted based on the strengths / deficiencies of the threat assessment.
7. A repository for best practices, research, technical assistance and training would address some of the greatest needs among districts.
8. A dedicated funding source for state and local activities must be established to sustain efforts and maintain attention on school safety & security.
9. Existing state-level activities and infrastructure must be leveraged to support school safety efforts (communications, building safety inspections, etc...).
10. Safety and security plans must be NIMS, ICS and THIRA compliant.
11. An awareness campaign to increase community involvement and buy-in must be part of the strategy.

- Discussion of Senator Hagedorn's school safety legislation (risk / benefit analysis)

<http://www.legislature.idaho.gov/legislation/2013/S1133.pdf>

Suggested amendments:

1. Empower trustees to designate a representative similar to county sheriff
2. Broaden "sheriff's designee" to representatives of public safety
3. Clarify the plans relate to school security rather than safety (responding to minor injuries on the playground, etc...)
4. Include the results of the school safety audit in records exempt from public record
5. Include "violence prevention efforts" in the list of suggested security deterrents

*update 3/11/13- all amendments except #2 above were included in the bill and the revised version will be before the senate in coming days. Current copy can be viewed via:

<http://legislature.idaho.gov/legislation/2013/S1133E1.pdf>

- Presentation- Steve Steiner, Bureau of Homeland Security

Topic: BHS current emergency operations infrastructure and discussion of gaps between schools and the existing network / identify steps to bridge the gaps

Key slides from the presentation:

ISSUES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

ISSUES

- PA SYSTEMS
- INTERIOR/EXTERIOR CAMERA SYSTEMS
- ACCESS CONTROL
- PANIC ALARM SYSTEMS
- RADIO COMMUNICATIONS

SOLUTION

- INTEGRATED STATEWIDE SECURITY MANAGEMENT LEVERAGING IEN AND BHS NETWORKS
- INCORPORATE SCHOOL DISTRICTS INTO THE STATEWIDE INTEROPERABLE RADIO PLANNING

ACTION ITEMS

- STANDARDS
 - Equipment
 - Management
 - Operations
- SITE ASSESSMENT
 - BHS AFO's, County Emergency Manager, Education
- NETWORK ENGINEERING
 - Develop communication integration plan

- Technology exists to support a 700 VHF system.
- BHS has the capacity to maintain video phone, video cameras and door lock systems (cost implication for video phone- \$10/year)
- Current BHS vendor is CISCO Systems, Inc.; who may be leveraged to implement a feasibility study. (Rural would be a better place for a test pilot and preferably not in the winter).
- Funds are available schools radios through a partnership with County Emergency Managers.


Action Item: Ascertain current phone, PA and Ethernet capabilities in schools and classrooms through a simple infrastructure assessment among a sampling of districts. McCarter to work with Steiner to identify exact language for the assessment, the SDE will implement the assessment. Determine initial pilot initially (first come first served).

- Presentation- Steve Keys, Division of Building Safety

Topic: Current components included in DBS annual inspection of school facilities and discussion of expanding review to include safety measures

Key slides from the presentation:


Potential DBS Program Changes



1. Change program emphasis to advisory and training emphasis rather than strict regulatory approach
2. **Install additional training and certification requirements for staff
3. **Expand investigative program
4. **School safety program expanded to include:
 - a. facility maintenance
 - b, commissioning of facilities
 - c. facility security

• ** Items lacking current funding source

Gaps to be addressed



- Legislative and rule changes
 1. Expanded and restructured uniform school building safety code cmte.
 2. Rule from Ed Board establishing new minimum requirements for school safety
 3. Legislation/Rule establishing Idaho Institute of Emergency Management (ISU) as post-secondary entity responsible for coordinating educational requirements and granting of credits.
- Funding
 1. Establish new funding source for school safety program at DBS
 2. Establish expanded funding for post-secondary programs at ISU

Action Items:

1. SDE and DBS to ascertain which elements of Idaho's uniform security assessment tool can be implemented by DBS and identify cost implications.
2. DBS keep SDE aware of Industrial Commission progress in extracting facilities inspections from DBS duties. SDE to identify how to support DBS school inspection activities.
3. SDE & DBS explore establishing requirements for new school construction.

Presentation- Kim Kane, Former SPAN Idaho Executive Director

Topic: Mass shootings and the suicidal mind- discussion of implications for the group's planning

Key slides from the presentation:

Suicide Statistics			
	<u>US (2010)</u>	<u>ID(2010)</u>	<u>ID(2011)</u>
Total Deaths	38,364	290	284
Deaths/week	738	6	5.5
Suicide Rate	12.4	18.5	17.9

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Why Does Idaho Rank So High in Completed Suicides Per Capita?

It is a combination of three factors:

- Lack of access to affordable, effective mental health care
- Easy Access to highly lethal means: firearms
- High levels of stigma related to help-seeking as part of a rugged individualist culture



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Recommendations – All populations

Paul Quinnett, PhD Founder, President and CEO of QPR Institute

1. Train general public to recognize warning signs and intervene.
2. Train firearms dealers to recognize distressed persons/delay or deny sale/refer for assistance.
3. Educate mental health and health professionals on overlap of suicide/homicide intent.



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Recommendations to Prevent School Shootings

- Limit adolescent privacy.
- Parents should not lie to protect their child, instead follow through with due process.
- Pay attention what the school says about a problem and get help.
- Eliminate easy access to guns.
- Limit media violence.
- Limit access to school building and implement meet and greet procedures.
- Do not teach student to charge a gunman.

Courtesy of Scott Poland, PhD 3-1.13

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More Prevention Suggestions

- Anyone can stop a school shooting (alertness and near misses).
- Students need to be involved in school safety (safety pledges and floor plan exercises).
- Recognize importance of practiced lock downs, evacuation procedures, and crisis drills.
- Increase mental health services at school and in community.
- Physical security alone is not the answer.
- Create and utilize threat assessment teams.
- The 4th R is relationships and it is important to know all students well and to have all students connected to their school.
- Good communication and a positive school culture is a preventative measure. Make school the last place that students want to blow up!

~Courtesy of Scott Poland, PhD 3-1.13

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Warning Signs

- Threatening to, talking or writing about suicide
- Previous suicide attempt
- Seeking methods to kill oneself
- Agitation, especially combined with sleeplessness
- Feeling hopeless or trapped
- Withdrawing from friends, family or society
- Changes in eating patterns
- Dramatic mood changes
- Increased alcohol or drug use
- Inability to sleep or sleeping all the time
- Recent loss of friend or family member through death, suicide, or divorce
- Sudden dramatic decline of improvement in work/school work
- Themes of death or depression in conversation, writing, reading or art
- Neglect of personal appearance
- No longer interested in favorite activities or hobbies
- Chronic headaches, stomach aches, fatigue
- Taking unnecessary risks, recklessness
- Sudden, unexpected loss of freedom or fear of punishment/humiliation

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SDE Action items:

- Frame suicide prevention in the larger context of violence prevention.
- Assure appropriate mental health indicators are reflected in the adapted Idaho School Security Assessment.
- Identify research-based suicide prevention programs for implementation in schools.

Next steps:

SDE to convene a Technical Working Group to review and adapt the Texas Ctr. School Security audit for Idaho. Once reviewed by the full stakeholder group this will serve as statewide common security assessment tool. Current TWG members include: Guy Bleisner, Mike Munger, Brian Armes, Todd Zucker. If other members are interested contact Matt McCarter (208-332-6961).

Committee Action Item: Provide details of any upcoming training regarding school safety and security to Doreen dhayes@sde.idaho.gov to post to SDE web site

Action Item: Steve Setiner will ascertain if ICTAP can conduct school assessments

Do NOT publicize or present the power point presentations.

- Future meeting schedule TBA / likely May 2013